

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-15 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, the drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the reference signs "15'" and "16'" mentioned in the specification.

The reference sign "15'" has been added to Fig. 4 and the reference sign "16'" in Fig. 4 has been changed to "16". It is noted that no reference sign "16'" is mentioned in the specification.

In item 3 on pages 2-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-11, and 15 have been rejected as being anticipated by Simeth (US Pat. No. 3,858,512, hereinafter "Simeth I") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claims 1 and 9 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in Figs. 1 and 3 of the drawings, which clearly show that the

upper clamping rail (13) is movable relative to the clamping element (24).

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a clamping element co-operating with said upper clamping rail, said upper clamping rail being movable relative to said clamping element. (Emphasis added.)

Claim 9 calls for, inter alia:

moving the upper clamping rail in a guide relative to a co-operating clamping element and fixing the upper clamping rail in position in order to adjust the register element. (Emphasis added.)

Simeth I shows a device for clamping a printing plate with a mounting bar 20 and an upper clamping rail 25 detachably connected with the mounting bar 20 via socket head screws 27. The register pins 28 are in the mounting bar 20 as well as in the clamping rail 25. Simeth shows a gliding guide 30 for the entire mounting rail. A relative movement between the mounting bar 20 and the upper clamping rail 25 is not possible and thus an adjustment of the register pins 28 relative to the lower mounting bar 20 is not possible. Therefore, in Simeth only the entire mounting rail is adjustable, the disadvantage

of which is described on page 2, lines 13-23 of the specification of the instant application.

In contrast, according to the invention of the instant application, the upper clamping rail (13), on which the register element (11) is fixed, is movable relative to the clamping element (24) in order to adjust the position of the register element (11) in relation to the printing plate (19).

Clearly, Simeth I does not show "a clamping element co-operating with said upper clamping rail, said upper clamping rail being movable relative to said clamping element", as recited in claim 1, and "moving the upper clamping rail in a guide relative to a co-operating clamping element and fixing the upper clamping rail in position in order to adjust the register element", as recited in claim 9 of the instant application.

Claims 1 and 9 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over Simeth I and since claims 2-3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, and 15 are dependent on claims 1 or 9, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 6 on pages 4-6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 4, 7, 12, and 14 have been rejected as being

unpatentable over Simeth I in view of Simeth (US Pat. No. Re. 35,647, hereinafter "Simeth II") under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claims 1 and 9 are believed to be patentable over the art. Since claims 4, 7, 12, and 14 are dependent on claims 1 or 9, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In item 7 on page 6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 13 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Simeth I in view of Evans (US Pat. No. 3,634,819) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, claim 9 is believed to be patentable over the art. Since claim 13 is dependent on claim 9, it is believed to be patentable as well.

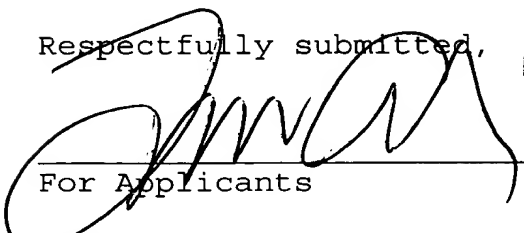
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308



For Applicants

YHC:cgm

June 17, 2003

Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101